

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04440 030923Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAB-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /035 W

----- 013375

R 030452Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3718

GOV CANAL ZONE

UNCLAS CAIRO 4440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA EG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF PAN CANAL OFFICIALS

REF: PANAMA 2222

1. PROPOSED VISITS OF PANAMA CANAL OFFICIALS KAUFMAN AND SCHMIDT WERE DISCUSSED WITH SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN MASHHOUR ON MAY 1 IN ISMAILIA. MASHHOUR SAID THAT VISITS OF PANAMA CANAL OFFICIALS "WOULD BE WELCOME AT ANY TIME". HOWEVER, HE WOULD GREATLY PREFER THAT VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER CANAL HAS BEEN REOPENED ON JUNE 5. HE SEEMED CONCERNED THAT DURING PROPOSED TIME FRAME OF MAY 21-23, HE AND HIS OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR EITHER HOSPITALITY OR WORKING MEETINGS. (ACCORDING BRITISH EMBASSY, GROUP FROM INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING WILL BE MEETING WITH SCA FROM MAY 23-26).

2. MASHHOUR SUGGESTED THAT MID-JUNE VISIT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL THAT TIME. FROM OUR OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION, SCA OFFICIALS ARE WORKING ON CRASH BASIS TO PREPARE FOR SCHEDULED OPENING.

3. MASHHOUR INDICATED THAT SEVERAL OFFICIALS FROM PANAMA CANAL HAD VISITED SCA FEW WEEKS AGO. EMBOFF DID NOT COMMENT, BUT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 04440 030923Z

IF VISIT TOOK PLACE, EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED. MASSHOUR

MAY HAVE BEEN CONFUSED BECAUSE PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS
FORMER GOVERNOR CANAL ZONE VISITED CAIRO RECENTLY.
EILTS

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NNN

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